

Food Bank news

The Grand Ronde Food Bank – iskam məkʰmək haws – is operated by Marion-Polk Food Share, which has been leading the fight to end hunger since 1987 because no one should be hungry.

Recipients of SNAP, TANF, SSI or LIHEAP assistance automatically qualify for assistance at the Grand Ronde Food Bank, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. No one will be turned away in need of a food box.

“We believe that everyone deserves to have enough to eat,” Food Bank Coordinator Francene Ambrose says. “You are welcome to get a food box at each of our regular weekly distributions. No one will be turned away in need of a food box.”

In reaction to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, the Food Bank will hold October food distributions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays.

“We are asking clients to not come for a food box if they are having any symptoms or concerned about their health,” Ambrose said. “We are limiting our geographic service area to Sheridan to Otis on Highway 18 and Sheridan to Hebo on Highway 22. We are asking clients and volunteers to wash their hands immediately upon entry to the building. Our lobby is closed until further notice.

“Food box distribution is happening outside while maintaining a safe distance between clients. We are sanitizing and keeping the food quarantined for three days before distribution. Pre-made boxes are available on distribution days, limited to two days of food for two adults. Clients within our geographic service area are still welcome to visit us weekly.”

People must check in 15 minutes before closing to receive a food box. If you need immediate assistance, call 211 or visit 211info.org.

Those who are unable to pick up a food box can fill out an authorized representative form and that designated person can pick up a food box on your behalf. The authorization is good for one year.

The Food Bank is continuing the Farm Share Rx program with 35 farm shares being distributed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays. It is a first-come, first-served distribution until the shares are depleted.

The Food Bank continues to seek volunteers to help with repacking food, putting food on the shelves, handing out food boxes, end-of-month inventory and picking up food donations at area stores.

The Farmers to Families food box distributions that were occurring on Tuesdays in Grand Ronde have been discontinued until a new distributor is set up. Please follow the Food Bank on Facebook for updates about how and when distributions will start again.

Call to ensure someone is available to assist. People also can sign up for a monthly e-mail for the Food Bank calendar and events, as well as follow the Food Bank on Facebook.

The Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider.

Call Ambrose at 503-879-3663 or contact her at fambrose@marion-polkfoodshare.org for more information or to volunteer. ■

Committee & Special Event Board meeting days and times

- **Ceremonial Hunting Board** meets as needed. Chair: Marline Groshong.
- **Culture Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Grand Ronde Food Bank/iskam məkʰmək haws, 9675 Grand Ronde Road. Chair: Francene Ambrose.
- **Editorial Board meets monthly.** The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 23, using the Zoom conferencing program. Chair: Siobhan Taylor. Contact: Editorial.Board@grandronde.org.
- **Education Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in the Adult Education building. Chair: Tammy Cook.
- **Elders Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the Elders Activity Center. Chair: Penny DeLoe.
- **Enrollment Committee** meets quarterly in Room 204 of the Governance Center. Chair: Debi Anderson.
- **Fish & Wildlife Committee** meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Chair: Bryan Langley.
- **Health Committee** meets at 10 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month in the Molalla Room of the Health & Wellness Center. Chair: Bernadine Shriver.
- **Housing Grievance Board** meets at 3 p.m. the third Thursday of the month in the Housing Department conference room. Chair: Simone Auger.
- **Powwow Special Event Board** meets monthly at noon at the Community Center. Dates vary. Contact Dana Ainam at 503-879-2037. Chair: Dana Ainam.
- **TERO Commission** meets at 10 a.m. the first Monday of the month in the Employment Services building. Chair: Russell Wilkinson.
- **Timber Committee** meets at 5 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the Natural Resources building off Hebo Road. Interim Chair: Jon R. George.
- **Veterans Special Event Board** meets at 5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month in the old Elders Craft House. Chair: Rich VanAtta.

To update information on this list, contact Publications Coordinator Dean Rhodes at 503-879-1463 or dean.rhodes@grandronde.org.

(Editor's note: All committee and special event board in-person meetings have been suspended during the Tribe's reaction to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.)



2015 – The Jim Pepper Project tour made its way to Grand Ronde for a performance in the Tribal gym and included an acting workshop the following morning. The original play was presented by Don Horn’s triangle productions! to honor the legacy of Native American jazz musician Jim Pepper. The original production was touring Oregon’s nine federally recognized Tribes throughout 2015 and was designed by Horn to mix performance, history and music into one show. The project took audience members through Pepper’s journey of becoming a world-renowned musical artist.



2015 File photo

2010 – The possible skull of a Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde ancestor was finally buried in a traditional way. The return happened after the Linn County Sheriff’s Office re-examined a cold case involving the skull when they were able to contact a man, who had taken the skull to a show-and-tell at his grade school in 1984. The skull had been passed down through generations in a family. “We took custody of this ancestor and will rebury in conjunction with Warm Springs and Siletz due to a lack of information about where this ancestor was recovered from,” said Tribal member Eirik Thorsgard, the Tribe’s Cultural Protection coordinator.

2005 – Tribal Council members Angie Blackwell, Reyn Leno and Jack Giffen Jr. traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with the state’s elected officials to discuss their opposition to a casino in the Columbia River Gorge and to explain their position. The Tribal Council members made the point that their opposition to a casino in the Columbia River Gorge was based on fairness of policy and fear of proliferation, not trouble between Tribes. Earlier that year, Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski approved the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs’ efforts to establish an off-reservation casino development project in the Columbia River Gorge.

2000 – The possibility of a recreational center for Grand Ronde was being discussed by community leaders. The location of the center was yet to be determined, although easy access before and after school was an important factor. The project would not depend on local taxes, but instead be financed by grants. According to some estimates, it would cost between \$2 million and \$5 million, and include a pool.

1995 – An overwhelming number of applicants, combined with a limited phone system, was making it challenging for staff at Spirit Mountain Casino to respond quickly to all Tribal members, but officials assured *Smoke Signals* that every effort was being made to answer questions and place applicants. “Due to the enormous number of applicants, over 3,000 to date, many people are experiencing delays in hearing the results of their applications, interviews or security checks,” an article stated. “The human resources staff is working overtime to alleviate the delays.”

1990 – Tribal representatives across Oregon gathered for a major statewide conference about their history and cultural traditions. The three-day conference was a culmination of a two-year project undertaken by several of the Tribes in cooperation with the Oregon Council for the Humanities. The grant allowed each Tribe to undertake a self-study project aimed at exploring aspects of Tribal history. Conference sessions included “The Recovery of Heritage,” “As I Was Told: Indian Oral Tradition in Oregon,” “Mistaken Notions,” “Shapes of Their Thought,” “The Attempted Suppression of Indian Culture in Oregon” and “Indian Places.”

1985 – During the past month, 117 applicants were approved for enrollment in the Tribe. “I would like, once again, to explain what is needed to complete an applicant’s enrollment file,” Enrollment Clerk Margo George said. “A completed enrollment application, along with birth documentation, must be turned in.”

Yesteryears is a look back at Tribal history in five-year increments through the pages of Smoke Signals.

Visioning Project creates West Valley calendar

SHERIDAN – The West Valley Visioning Project has partnered with the Bulletin Board’s community calendar to create an online West Valley community calendar that includes events from Sheridan, Willamina and Grand Ronde. To view the calendar, visit wvvproject.org/communitycalendar. ■